

REMARKS

Applicant concurrently files herewith a Petition and Fee for a One-Month Extension of Time.

Claims 8, 10-11, and 13 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 9 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claims 8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muramatsu (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,772), in view of Yasuda, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,415). Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 9-10 and 12-13 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the informalities.

Claims 8, 11, and 13 have been amended in a manner believed fully responsive to the points raised by the Examiner, thereby to pass all of the claims to allowance. The amendment to claim 8 and to the title overcome the Examiner's objections thereto. While Applicant disagrees with the prior art rejection, to speed prosecution, allowable claim 9 has been combined into claim 8. No new matter has been added.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A conditional petition is made for any extension of time which may become necessary. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees for such extension and to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,



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